3/16/77

Mr. Howard Bray
Fund for Investigative Journalism
1346 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Howard,

Sorry if I seemed detached and non-responsive yesterday. Three people from Zebra were here, the published, the chief editor and the counsel. They looked at enough of the records and on that are satisfied.

While we reached no agreement they seem more than just interested. At one point they were talking of setting up a subsidiary of which I'd be part if I would deliver three books in a year. The see the potential of this one clearly enough. The problem is the possibility of retaliation against one of the owners, a one-man conglomerate.

If it goes through I sure would be able to use an assistant! Also someone to edit the unretyped rough draft before retyping. If John Hanrahan, who was fired by the Post during the strike, has the time and I can find him, I'll ask him on that. I suppose his phone is listed or I can find him through the Post.

The Ray interview was interesting to me. The reason was apparent to Jim only. Ray is a strange one, with odd psychological problems magnified by all those years in solitary. He is obsessive-compulsive and has been for years. How does one cope with that in trying to influence him?

Had it not be for the strong fights I've been waging with him by mail, in the past, recently and through his brother Jerry, there would have been all kinds of counter-productive crap in his answers. While he is so mad at me he writes me by writing Jim and sending me carbons! he did heed me, on every point that I know he and Jerry had put together in a strange propagandistic way. Even on the committee, the cole sb beneficiary of his appearance. It could not help him and it can hurt him in ways that may not be apparent to one who does not know the subject, more not knowing him and how he thinks and expresses himself.

The confinement and the pressures show in the shanges I see in him. Not that he began as a fine person. I can evaluate by the content and form of his responses. He missed the kinds of opportunities he never would have three years ago. He has a remarkable sense of hunor, dry and effective. He had opportunities, if you know the fact. His appearance also is changed much.

Anyway, thanks. If I do not make a deal now I think I also have no alternative but to do the book as rapidly as I can. If you know a journalism student who would be willing to undertake a sort of apprenticeship once college is over I think it would be worhtwhile for him or her. At the least it will provide an opportunity to examine records no reporter ever has a chance to study. I'm trying to keep it quiet because of the misuses that are common but to give you an idea I now have well over 10,000 FBI pages nobody has seen and have the assurance of not less than 10,000 more. Priceless bits of what I am thinking of using as an appendix rather than in the text, a chapter titled J.Edgar Hooger, the Man and the Myth. His notes, in his own hand-fantastic. For all that has been written about him they still say much.

Best,